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Peacebuilding Commission
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Organizational Committee

Summary record of the 1st meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Wednesday, 31 January 2018, at 10 a.m.

Chair: Mr. Cho Tae-yul ..... (Republic of Korea)
later: Mr. Jinga ..... (Romania)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda (PBC/12/OC/1)

1. *The agenda was adopted.*

Draft report of the Peacebuilding Commission on its eleventh session (PBC/11/OC/L.1)

2. **The Chair** recalled that the draft report of the Peacebuilding Commission on its eleventh session (PBC/11/OC/L.1) had been provisionally and informally approved by the Organizational Committee during informal consultations, pending its translation into all United Nations official languages. The draft report reflected the Commission's work in 2017 to implement the relevant recommendations of General Assembly resolution 70/262 and Security Council resolution 2282 (2016) on the review of the peacebuilding architecture and the priorities identified in the forward agenda of the report, and set out key work streams for 2018. The report would be considered by the General Assembly and the Security Council.

3. **Mr. Bessho** (Japan) said that the Commission had made important progress despite having faced some challenging times. The Commission's members had shown greater interest in the work of the Commission's country-specific configurations, which had achieved greater transparency and accountability in the past two years. The Commission had also strengthened its partnership with the World Bank, tackled thematic issues and focused its attention on countries that were not covered by existing country-specific configurations. He encouraged members to support the Secretary-General's proposed reform of the United Nations peace and security architecture which emphasized conflict prevention by helping to improve the Commission's hinge role within the United Nations system and its synergy with the Peacebuilding Fund.

4. *The draft report was adopted.*

Election of officers

5. **The Chair** said that, in view of prior consultations among regional groups and members of the Organizational Committee, it was his understanding that the Committee was prepared to elect the new Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission.

6. *Romania was elected Chair by acclamation for a term ending on 31 December 2018.*

7. **The Chair** said that the Asia-Pacific Group had endorsed the Republic of Korea for the position of Vice-Chair of the Commission for its twelfth session.

8. *The Republic of Korea was elected Vice-Chair by acclamation for a term ending on 31 December 2018.*

9. **The Chair** said that the Western European and Others Group had endorsed Germany for the position of Vice-Chair of the Commission for its twelfth session.

10. *Germany was elected Vice-Chair by acclamation for a term ending on 31 December 2018.*

11. *Brazil was re-elected as Chair of the Guinea-Bissau configuration; Canada was re-elected as Chair of the Sierra Leone configuration; Morocco was re-elected as Chair of the Central African Republic configuration; Sweden was re-elected as Chair of the Liberia configuration; and Switzerland was re-elected as Chair of the Burundi configuration for a term ending on 31 December 2018.*

Statement by the outgoing Chair

12. **The Chair** said that during its term as Chair, his delegation had contributed to making the Commission more relevant within the peacebuilding architecture of the United Nations, taking advantage of the political momentum created by the adoption of the twin General Assembly and Security Council resolutions on review of the peacebuilding architecture in 2016 and the strong commitment of the Secretary-General to conflict prevention and sustaining peace.

13. In 2017, in addition to the work of its country-specific configurations, the Commission had sustained international attention on the Gambia after the Security Council ceased holding deliberations on the situation there, and had convened meetings to discuss the situations in the Solomon Islands, Colombia and Sri Lanka at the request of those countries. Those meetings had illustrated how countries that were eligible for support from the Peacebuilding Fund could use the Commission as a platform for securing global political support for their peacebuilding priorities, thereby increasing the synergy between the Commission and the Fund.

14. The Commission had continued to take a regional approach to peacebuilding by discussing the situations in the Sahel region, the Lake Chad basin and the Great Lakes region. Having taken up the issue of the Sahel at the request of the Security Council, the Commission would enhance its credibility as an advisory body to the Security Council if it made specific progress in 2018. The moral and political support that the Commission's members had offered was unique and could encourage countries to work more closely with the Commission. Therefore, such engagements should not end with one-off meetings, and the Commission should develop

practical ways to help countries to achieve their peacebuilding priorities.

15. To strengthen its partnerships with stakeholders outside the United Nations, the Commission had held annual meetings with the World Bank to discuss the situations in countries that were receiving the Commission's support. The Commission should use such meetings to mobilize resources for the countries in question. The Commission also needed to build its partnership with the African Development Bank and continue to build ties with the African Union, among other regional organizations.

16. The Commission had explored ways to engage with the private sector by working in cooperation with entities participating in the United Nations Global Compact. Meanwhile, the delegations of Norway and Indonesia, the focal points for financing, had helped to convene an expert-level meeting on the subject. As had been emphasized at the Asian Conference on Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention, which had been convened by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea, the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation and the Peacebuilding Support Office, engagement with the domestic private sector and strong public-private partnerships were key to economic growth and building and sustaining peace. By further strengthening the partnerships with the private sector and with civil society, the Commission would reinforce its convening role and enhance the quality of the advice that it provided to its parent bodies.

17. There had been greater interaction between the Commission and the Security Council, as evidenced by the latter's request for advice from the Commission on many regional and country-specific issues. The Commission had also held a joint meeting with the Economic and Social Council to address the social and economic dimensions of the challenges facing the Sahel. The Commission needed to examine how it could work with other United Nations bodies to promote an integrated approach to peacebuilding.

18. In line with efforts to diversify the Commission's working methods, the Chairs of the country-specific configurations had briefed the Organizational Committee on a quarterly basis in 2017, while the Peacebuilding Support Office had briefed the Commission regularly on the activities of the Peacebuilding Fund.

19. The Commission had appointed focal points on thematic issues, such as gender, finance and institutional ownership and should engage all its members in its efforts to provide country-specific support. The Commission should use its convening role to hold regular exchanges with international financial institutions to mobilize resources, engage with potential bilateral and multilateral donors, and connect stakeholders in areas of interest to the countries concerned.

20. The capacity of the Peacebuilding Support Office needed to be strengthened so that it could better support the Commission. He hoped that the Secretary-General would strengthen the Commission and the hinge role of the Peacebuilding Support Office in implementing his vision of United Nations reform.

21. *Mr. Jinga (Romania) took the Chair.*

Statement by the incoming Chair

22. **The Chair** said that his country had a long tradition of multilateral diplomacy, having been a founding member of the League of Nations and having contributed significantly to preventive diplomacy, conflict prevention, peacebuilding and mediation ever since joining the United Nations in 1955. Romania had contributed thousands of troops to peacekeeping missions; more of its police officers were serving under the United Nations flag than any other member of the European Union; and Romania was the only Member State that provided close protection units to high-level United Nations officials in high-risk areas. He was counting on all members of the Commission to work as a team to further consolidate the Commission's relevance with all partners, particularly with the Security Council.

23. In 2018, the Commission's two objectives were to implement the recommendations set out in the Commission's annual report and to build on recent initiatives. The first of the Commission's priorities would be to continue taking a regional approach to peacebuilding, with a particular focus on the Sahel and the Great Lakes region. The Commission's role in supporting peacebuilding and sustaining peace in those two regions had been recognized by the Security Council in its presidential statement on peace consolidation in West Africa (PRST/2017/2) and in its resolution 2389 (2017) on the situation in the Great Lakes region. The Commission could help to build partnerships between countries in the region, the United Nations and other partners to address the root causes of conflict. He also encouraged countries to use the Commission's platform to share peacebuilding experiences and build partnerships with key stakeholders.

24. The Commission's second priority would be to build partnerships with regional and subregional organizations, international financial institutions and

civil society organizations. In particular, the Commission should leverage the complementary roles that the United Nations and the World Bank played in an integrated political, security and development framework. By working more strategically with the private sector, whose investment was indispensable for achieving sustainable development in a post-conflict environment, it could help to raise awareness of the peacebuilding priorities of partner countries and involve the private sector in defining peacebuilding objectives. Key stakeholders would be invited to take part in the Commission's annual session in 2018 to review wide-ranging security, political and socioeconomic challenges facing the Sahel region and the implementation of the United Nations integrated strategy for the Sahel.

25. The Commission's third priority was to support conflict-affected countries at all stages of the conflict, from preventing the outbreak of conflict to reconstruction and development, provided they wished to engage with the international community. Peacebuilding efforts must respect the sovereignty of the States concerned, which should take ownership of the peacebuilding process. The Commission should raise its profile by developing its relationship with the Security Council and by making valuable contributions to the Council's work without interfering with its mandate.

26. The Commission's fourth priority was to align its programming tools and political objectives with those of the Peacebuilding Fund, which he hoped would play an increasing role in implementing Security Council and General Assembly resolutions on review of the peacebuilding architecture. The Commission would meet regularly with the Peacebuilding Support Office to stay abreast of developments in the countries that it was supporting and help to raise awareness among donors and international financial institutions of the Fund's work and the catalytic role it played in peacebuilding efforts.

27. The Commission's fifth priority was to achieve greater visibility of the Commission's strengthened advisory role with respect to the General Assembly and the Security Council and its improved working methods. To that end, the Commission would make its open meetings available as a webcast.

28. A lasting peacebuilding process should be transparent and allow for participation and consultation. Therefore, while striking a balance between transparency and confidentiality of the Commission's deliberations, the Commission would hold more open meetings and would invite the media to become its partner in building peace.

29. The Commission needed to build on the recent improvements it had achieved to serve as a bridge between the Security Council, the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council and help those institutions achieve greater coherence in their peacebuilding efforts. The Commission also needed to enhance its country-specific engagement and expand the range of topics that were taken up by the Organizational Committee.

Workplan of the Peacebuilding Commission

30. **The Chair** said that the representatives of Burundi, the Central African Republic, the European Union, Morocco, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Sweden and Switzerland had asked to participate in the discussion of the item under consideration.

31. *At the invitation of the Chair, Mr. Shingiro (Burundi), Ms. Kpongo (Central African Republic), Mr. Czernelhazi (European Union), Mr. Kadiri (Morocco), Mr. George (Sierra Leone), Mr. Davidson (South Africa), Mr. Orrenius Skau (Sweden) and Mr. Lauber (Switzerland) took places at the Committee table.*

32. **The Chair** said that, according to paragraph 4 of the annex to the Commission's draft report on its eleventh session (PBC/11/OC/L.1), the Commission was expected to adopt an annual workplan based on the forward agenda contained in the Commission's annual report. The workplan was to be further developed and circulated to the Member States on a quarterly basis and on a monthly basis, listing the dates of meetings, activities and visits of the Commission in all its configurations. Commission members had received a proposed workplan for the Organizational Committee and the planned activities of the Chair to take forward the actions stipulated in the forward agenda. He took it that the Committee provisionally approved the proposed workplan.

33. *It was so decided.*

34. **Mr. Fernandez-Taranco** (Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support) said that efforts by the delegation of the Republic of Korea to implement the twin resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council on the review of the peacebuilding architecture had raised the Commission's profile. The Commission's meetings on the Sahel and the Great Lakes region had demonstrated its convening role, while its response to the situation in the Gambia had shown that it could be a forum where interested countries could

share their experiences. The Commission should continue to build synergy with the Peacebuilding Fund and to open its meetings to a wider audience. The Commission's discussions of specific issues gave interested countries an opportunity to share their peacebuilding experiences and demonstrated how important it was for a country to take ownership of its own peacebuilding process. While every situation was different, there existed commonalities, which made it important to share lessons learned.

35. He welcomed the Chair's priorities and his intention to keep the Commission relevant by expanding its scope of work. The Peacebuilding Support Office would help the Commission to respond more nimbly at all stages of conflict and to contribute to conflict prevention. The upcoming high-level meeting on peacebuilding and sustaining peace would enable the Commission to demonstrate its capabilities and would include a call for contributions to the Peacebuilding Fund. It was important to prioritize how funding was allocated for peacebuilding efforts. The Commission's members should fully support the implementation of the Secretary-General's reform agenda, which included the restructuring of the peacebuilding pillar and a review of how United Nations peacebuilding missions were performing on the ground.

36. The success of the Commission's ambitious workplan hinged on the support of the Member States. He hoped that the current session would demonstrate the Commission's convening power on complex issues and its bridging role between the Security Council, the General Assembly and other bodies. The Peacebuilding Support Office would involve senior officials of the United Nations in the Commission's discussion to help turn the recommendations arising from those meetings into results in the field that supported the peacebuilding and sustaining peace priorities of the Member States.

37. **Mr. Schulz** (Germany) said that his Government had supported the Commission since its establishment and had been the second-largest contributor to the Peacebuilding Fund in 2017. The Commission had amply justified its existence within the United Nations peace and security architecture. Recent changes to the Commission's working methods, including the discussion of country and regional situations by the Organizational Committee, had made the Commission more flexible and efficient. He hoped that the ongoing reforms would bring about closer cooperation with the Security Council and strengthen the Commission's advisory role to that body, which would help to ensure the coherence of peacebuilding efforts and smooth the transition from peacekeeping to peacebuilding.

38. **The Chair** invited the Chairs of the country-specific configurations to share their plans and priorities for 2018.

39. **Mr. Vieira** (Brazil), speaking as the Chair of the Guinea-Bissau configuration, said that, through statements to the Security Council and the press, the Commission had expressed its full support for the six-point Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Roadmap for the Resolution of the Political Crisis in Guinea-Bissau and the Conakry Agreement on the Implementation of the ECOWAS Roadmap. He had called on the country's leadership to ensure the swift implementation of those agreements.

40. Many important developments had taken place in Guinea-Bissau since the beginning of 2018, including the resignation of the country's Prime Minister and the appointment of his replacement. Meanwhile, the country's President had met with his West African counterparts. Following the upcoming ambassadorial-level meeting of the Commission to discuss developments in Guinea-Bissau, the configuration would issue a statement ahead of the next Security Council briefing on the situation in Guinea-Bissau and the renewal of the mandate of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau. While the configuration had tentatively included a country visit in its workplan, the timing of the visit would depend on the situation on the ground.

41. **Mr. Kadiri** (Morocco), speaking as the Chair of the Central African Republic configuration, said that the outgoing Chair had strengthened the Commission's relationships with the main United Nations bodies and had also developed the Commission's partnership with the African Union.

42. For most of 2018, the configuration would maintain its focus on the implementation of pillar I of the National Recovery and Peacebuilding Plan, which concerned security sector reform, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, the rule of law and reconciliation. Many expert-level and ambassadorial-level meetings would be held in the coming months with the African Union, the World Bank, the Department of State of the United States and other organizations. A mid-year country visit was also planned. The configuration would turn its attention to pillar II later in 2018. He asked the Peacebuilding Support Office to continue its peacebuilding efforts in the Central African Republic, which had every chance of becoming a true success story.

43. He thanked the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support for having circulated an advance version of the report of the Secretary-General on

peacebuilding and sustaining peace, which would help the Commission to prepare for the upcoming high-level meeting on peacebuilding and sustaining peace.

44. **Mr. Bonser** (Canada), speaking as the Chair of the Sierra Leone configuration, said that the configuration had mobilized technical and financial resources for the upcoming elections in that country and was working with regional partners to ensure a peaceful transition. Although the political parties were fragmented in the run-up to the elections, Sierra Leone was not unusual in that regard. Preparations for the elections were on track and he had a high degree of confidence in their successful outcome. The configuration would be watching closely for election-related instability and would hold a follow-up meeting in March following the elections. The configuration was looking forward to speaking with the new administration. Noting that it was challenging for Sierra Leone to attract private investment, he suggested that the Commission should play an innovative role in that respect.

45. **Mr. Orrenius Skau** (Sweden), speaking as the Chair of the Liberia configuration, said that the country was going through a period of transition as it celebrated the conclusion of the first peaceful elections since 1944.

46. In 2017, the configuration had focused on drafting and implementing the peacebuilding plan ahead of the planned draw-down of the United Nations Mission in Liberia in 2018. The acting Minister of the Interior had given assurances that the peacebuilding plan had been implemented, that systems had been put in place to monitor assets and that all ministers would prepare term-end notes to ensure a smooth transition. The Minister had emphasized that political reconciliation should be a priority for the Commission.

47. The Commission would work with the new Government to identify any gaps in the implementation of the first phase of the peacebuilding plan and to determine how the Commission could support the Government in its priorities for the second phase of the plan. The configuration had concluded that the country team would face a potential resource "cliff" following the forthcoming draw-down of the United Nations Mission in Liberia and had urged the United Nations to ensure that funding would be available during the critical transition period.

48. The Commission's principal areas of focus in 2018 should include supporting the implementation of the peacebuilding plan, providing political accompaniment and ensuring financial support following the departure of the United Nations Mission. The Chair of the configuration would meet with the new Government at an upcoming conference in Monrovia to learn about its vision for peacebuilding and to discuss how the Commission could support the country during the dual transition. The Security Council's deliberations on the Secretary-General's final report on the United Nations Mission in Liberia would be another opportunity for the Commission to discuss its future role with the Security Council.

49. **Mr. Lauber** (Switzerland), speaking as the Chair of the Burundi configuration, said that the Commission had pursued its broad re-engagement with the Government, national stakeholders and the international community in support of regional efforts to overcome the current crisis and with a focus on mitigating its socioeconomic impact on the population. In March 2017, he had travelled to the country, where he had briefed the President and other high-ranking interlocutors on the socioeconomic consultations that he had organized with the United Nations, the European Union, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Bank and the African Development Bank in Geneva in November 2016. During the same trip, he had co-hosted a working lunch with the Government and the Resident Coordinator ad interim. On his way to Burundi, he had met with the facilitator of the East African Community, representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the United Republic of Tanzania and the World Bank, and other interlocutors in Dar es Salaam.

50. On 21 April 2017, he had undertaken a trip to Washington, D.C., in order to pursue his engagement with the World Bank and IMF. He had also met with the Minister of Finance of Burundi, who had been in Washington at the time.

51. In July 2017, he had again travelled to Burundi, where he had attended a follow-up socioeconomic retreat organized by the Minister of External Relations and International Cooperation. In October, he had used the opportunity of a visit to Addis Ababa to meet with the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of External Relations and International Cooperation of Burundi, high-ranking representatives of the African Union, the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa and the Head of the United Nations Office to the African Union. During 2017, he had briefed the Security Council four times.

52. In 2018, he hoped to foster dialogue with regional partners and development stakeholders. During his next visit, he would focus on mediation efforts; determining the role of the Burundi configuration in planning for the 2020 elections; continuing socioeconomic dialogue and bringing in new partners; supporting humanitarian efforts, especially about returning refugees; and facilitating national reconciliation.

53. **Mr. Escalante Hasbún** (El Salvador) said that his delegation was pleased that the Commission had developed a more wide-ranging and multidimensional workplan, which included meetings regarding countries that were not covered by a country-specific configuration. It appreciated the work of the Peacebuilding Fund, which was supporting a new project involving El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras.

54. He asked whether the President of the General Assembly was coordinating with the Peacebuilding Support Office in planning the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on peacebuilding and sustaining peace, which would take place in February 2018, and whether that event would result in the adoption of an outcome document. He also wondered whether it would be worth organizing additional meetings to discuss issues specific to certain countries or regions.

55. **Ms. Mejía Vélez** (Colombia) said that the Commission was becoming more visible, relevant and effective, and gaining prominence as a consultative organ. Her delegation particularly appreciated its regional approach; the Commission had an important role to play in supporting the peace process in Colombia and addressing the situation in Haiti.

56. Her delegation looked forward to the high-level meeting of the General Assembly and welcomed the cross-cutting nature of the draft report of the Secretary-General on peacebuilding and sustaining peace.

57. **Mr. Kamau** (Kenya) said that the future of the Commission lay in its flexibility and ability to engage countries in various ways, including through the Peacebuilding Fund. The Commission had proved that it could add value to the work of the General Assembly and the Security Council. It could, however, do better to support elections, which were crucial for sustaining peace. Its role in that regard should include promoting mediation, human rights and inclusiveness, not to mention arranging technical assistance. If peacebuilding was to act as a "hinge" between the peace and security pillar and the United Nations development system and humanitarian actors, it would need more investment. However, the Peacebuilding Fund remained woefully underfunded. The Commission should continue to engage with the African Union, but should also seek to extend its reach beyond Africa, for instance by helping to sustain peace in such locations as Colombia and parts of Europe. Lastly, it was important that the Commission's meetings should continue to be available via webcast.

58. **Mr. Shingiro** (Burundi) said that his delegation supported the priorities set out in the workplan and appreciated the cooperative approach of the outgoing Chair. There were, however, some areas that needed improvement. In its forthcoming work, the Commission should focus on its core mission of mobilizing resources for States to ensure that they did not relapse into conflict. Any trend towards overstepping that mandate would merely undermine it. For example, certain members of the Commission had imposed economic sanctions on Burundi following the 2015 crisis in that country, a country that was on the Commission's agenda, whereas the Commission's role was to mobilize funds to help the country rebuild. Since the crisis had subsided, he hoped that the sanctions would be lifted, as they ran counter to the Commission's objectives. In some country-specific configurations, there was a tendency to focus primarily on human rights, to the detriment of socioeconomic issues, even though human rights were covered by other United Nations entities. The principle of national ownership needed to be genuinely applied.

59. The regional dimension also required close attention, as neighbouring States were often in the best position to provide advice. The gap between regional actors and members of the Commission, none of which were African, had continued to grow and could undermine the Commission's efforts. For the Commission to remain relevant, it must concentrate on its own guiding principles.

60. **Mr. Pecsteen de Buytswerve** (Belgium) said that the Commission had proved innovative, dynamic and flexible, and should continue to work along those lines. It should ensure that in its work it was mindful of the broader context of the discussions regarding the Secretary-General's reform programme and conflict prevention. Those discussions gave the Commission an opportunity to show that it was ideally placed to serve as a platform for discussion and as a hinge between the various pillars of United Nations engagement. The Commission's added value came from its comprehensive approach; and while socioeconomic issues were particularly important, good governance and human rights were also needed. The time had come to move from conceptual reflection to tangible action, and the configuration mechanism would help to identify the practices that worked.

61. **Mr. Bin Momen** (Bangladesh) said that the Commission should add impetus to the Secretary-General's proposals regarding the role of peacekeeping and seek out ways to boost financing for the Peacebuilding Fund. The Commission had the potential to make a difference in such cases as the recent Rohingya crisis. The international community now faced the enormous task of creating an enabling

environment for the refugees' safe, voluntary and dignified return to Myanmar. While the Security Council must continue to monitor the situation, the Commission also had experience involving Myanmar, and could thus offer advice regarding ways to create a favourable environment in accordance with the recommendations of the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State. For its part, the Government of Bangladesh stood prepared to act as a bridge between the Commission and the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries.

62. **Mr. Morejón Pazmiño** (Ecuador) said that the practice of electing the outgoing Chair as a Vice-Chair for the current term would help to ensure continuity. As a new member, Ecuador looked forward to participating in the Commission's activities.

63. **Ms. Krisnamurthi** (Indonesia) said that the draft report of the Peacebuilding Commission rightly highlighted the challenge of financing. Indonesia would continue to work with Norway in the coming years to promote financing for peacebuilding. The Commission should draw on its experience in working with regional and subregional organizations; retain a focus on national ownership; and encourage women and younger persons to play a greater role in building a national vision.

64. **Ms. Csernelhazi** (European Union) said that the European Union shared the Peacebuilding Commission's integrated approach, which was essential to ensure that peacebuilding benefited all stakeholders.

65. **Ms. Gueguen** (France) said that the proposed reforms would make the Commission more effective, more relevant and better able to respond to major peacekeeping challenges. The workplan reflected the Security Council's intention to appeal to the Commission's expertise, for instance regarding the Sahel and the Great Lakes region. That approach reflected an understanding that political engagement and socioeconomic development should be complementary and that the Commission had a part to play in mobilizing the relevant actors. The workplan rightly provided for synergy between the Commission and the Security Council, regular country meetings would precede the Security Council's deliberations, to ensure that the Council had access to the best possible information. The workplan also showed a desire strengthen synergies between the Commission and the Peacebuilding Fund and promote interaction with the countries on the Commission's agenda.

66. **Mr. Davidson** (South Africa) said that his delegation appreciated the Commission's partnerships with regional and subregional groups and international financial institutions. To achieve a sustainable peace, it was important to integrate all stages of the process and promote stability, growth, development and capacity-building. In addition to sustainable and predictable funding, the broader concept of peacebuilding support should include the African Solidarity Initiative, which could provide in-kind support, including training and institution-building.

67. **Ms. Kpongo** (Central African Republic) said that the Chair of the Central African Republic configuration had worked tirelessly to help her country, notably by promoting security sector reform and disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, and by reminding donor countries of funding pledges that had yet to be honoured.

68. **Ms. Jáquez Huacuja** (Mexico) said that the outgoing Chair had successfully maintained the Commission's visibility and shown great flexibility in approaching various topics. In future, the Commission should endeavour to work more closely with the Economic and Social Council, part of whose original mandate included peacebuilding. She wondered how the Secretary-General's proposals for the restructuring of the peace and security pillar would influence the Commission's work in the following months.

69. **Mr. George** (Sierra Leone) said that his delegation fully concurred with the points made by the Chair of the Sierra Leone configuration and welcomed his efforts to support elections in the country. The electoral campaign would soon begin, and his Government looked forward to a free and fair process.

70. **Mr. Llorentty Solíz** (Plurinational State of Bolivia) said that the Commission had a vital catalytic role to play, particularly at a time when the multilateral system was under constant threat. The Commission should seek to promote national ownership of natural resources, which were often among the structural causes of conflicts from which multinational companies sought to benefit.

71. **Mr. Cho** Tae-yul (Republic of Korea), responding to the question raised by the representative of El Salvador, said that his understanding was that the high-level meeting would endeavour to assess the progress made at the halfway point of the five-year review of the peacebuilding architecture and suggest the way forward. He believed that the outcome document should take the form of a brief, procedural resolution, which would not seek to renegotiate issues of substance. He had discussed the planning of the high-level meeting with the President of the General Assembly, who would also consult with other stakeholders.

72. **The Chair** said that he would comment further after discussing the matter with the President of the General Assembly and his staff. The Commission stood ready to provide support for any countries that expressed an interest in convening meetings on national and regional topics.

73. **Mr. Fernandez-Taranco** (Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support) said that the Peacebuilding Support Office had been working closely with other United Nations entities, including the Office of the President of the General Assembly, with a view to providing input to the forthcoming report of the Secretary-General on peacebuilding and sustaining peace. He hoped that the outcome of the high-level meeting, whatever its format, would enable the Peacebuilding Support Office to continue reporting to Member States on the progress achieved in reforming the peacebuilding architecture. For the meeting to be a success, it was essential for Member States to send high-level attendees from their capitals.

The meeting rose at 12.45 p.m.